

# Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in California

Location	Type	Years	Details
<a href="#">Bakersfield</a>	WBO WSO	1929-1995	While weather observations from Bakersfield dated back to 1895, the federal government did not open its Weather Bureau office locally until July 1929. The first office was located at the Kern County Airport, then at the present-day Meadows Field beginning in 1958. A new building was constructed in 1983, after the NWS office came within a week of being closed in 1982. The Bakersfield NWS office closed 11/1/1995, after its functions were merged with the new office in Hanford.
<b>Beaumont</b>	WBAS WBO	1929-1953	An airways station was established in Beaumont in January 1939. The airport closed in 1940, but the Weather Bureau kept an office in the area until 1953.
<a href="#">Bishop</a>	WBAS WSO	1943-1945, 1947-1996	The Weather Bureau opened an office at the Bishop airport in June 1943 at the request of the U.S. Army. It initially was located at a private residence, before relocating to Air Base Bishop (now Eastern Sierra Regional Airport) in March 1944. It closed in October 1945 due to a reduction in force, before reopening in March 1947 back at the air base. Initially conducting 24-hour operations upon its reopening, it was reduced to 7 am to 10:30 pm in January 1949, then from 6:45 am to 7:45 pm beginning in October 1950. The office relocated in May 1979 to the northwest side of the Airport Administration Building. By the time the NWS modernization closed the office (March 1996), it was down to a single person running the operations.
<b>Blue Canyon</b>	WBAS WSMO WSCMO	1947-1988	The Weather Bureau assumed operations of the Blue Canyon Airport station from the CAA on 5/16/1947. The station became partially automated in 1961, with the installation of an Automatic Meteorological Observatory Station (AMOS). Operation of the site was contracted out in February 1982. The station was closed at the end of 1988 due to budget cutbacks; the AMOS was replaced by an ASOS in 1993.
<b>Burbank</b>	WBAS RDO DFO FAWS	1931-1966	A Weather Bureau Airport Station was established at the Burbank airport in 1931. A district forecast office was established here, and moved to the Los Angeles Airport in 1947. In January 1944, a Flight Advisory Weather Service station was established at the air traffic control center. A River District Office was established in June of the same year, after moving from Los Angeles. The station was closed in July 1966.
<b>Burney</b>	WBO	1942-1948	A part-time Weather Bureau Office operated from 1942 to 1948 at the Burney Fire Hall.
<b>Conway Summit</b>	WBO	1943-1945	This station opened in May 1943 north of Mono Lake at Conway Summit, taking hourly aviation and climatological observations. This site closed in October 1945
<b>Eureka</b>	SigSvc WBO RDO WSO WFO	1886- present	A Signal Service office opened in December 1886 at the Buhne Building, and remained in this location when the Weather Bureau took over. The office moved to the Federal Building in 1911. A WSR-3 radar was installed in 1957; this was donated to California State University - Humboldt in June 1972. The office was upgraded to a Weather Forecast Office in the modernization of the 1990's.
<b>Farallon Island</b>	WBO	1903-1945	This station, off the coast from San Francisco, was transferred to the Coast Guard at the end of 1945.

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<b>Fremont</b>	CWSU	? - present	The Oakland-area Center Weather Service Unit operates out of the ARTCC in Fremont.
<b><u>Fresno</u></b>	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1887-1995	The Signal Service established observations in downtown Fresno in 1887. They remained downtown until 1939, when the Weather Bureau consolidated its operation at the Chandler Field office, which had opened in 1929. The office moved to the new airport in August 1949, where it remained until moving to new facilities in Clovis in January 1986. The NWS presence remained there through August 1995, when its functions were assumed by the new facility in Hanford.
<b><u>Hanford</u></b>	WFO	1995-present	The Hanford office opened 1/25/1995, with its WSR-88D operating in March of that year. This NWS office merged the functions of the Fresno and Bakersfield offices, and its functions were expanded to include additional forecast duties.
<b>Independence</b>	WBO	1898-1925, 1943-1944	An office in Independence was established in March 1898, at the Norman House. Operations were conducted in several different locations in the area, before the station was downgraded to a second-order site in June 1923. The station operated again as a first-order site for about a year in 1943-44.
<b>Keeler</b>	WBO	1891-1894	
<b>Lebec</b>	WBO	1929-1932	A station was established at the Richfield Aerological Observatory in July 1929. At the end of March 1932, it was relocated to Sandburg.
<b>Lindsay</b>	WSO-Ag		
<b>Long Beach</b>	WBAS WBO WSO WSCMO	1938-1943, 1959-1999	A Weather Bureau Airport Station opened in February 1938 at the municipal airport. In February 1943, the CAA took over its operation, with the Weather Bureau resuming its presence in 1959. The station become an NWS contract meteorological observatory in late 1987, before being turned over to the FAA in 1999.
<b><u>Los Angeles</u></b>	SigSvc WBO WBAS HQ RDO DFO HC WSFO WSO WSCMO	1877-2002	The Signal Service established an office at Los Angeles in 1877, at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets, with the Weather Bureau assuming responsibility in 1890. An airport station was established at Mines Field (current Los Angeles International Airport) southwest of downtown in 1931, with a District Forecast Office established there on April 7, 1947, having relocated from Burbank. A regional headquarters office was relocated from San Francisco in 1943, then closed in 1949 with consolidation of regional headquarters at Salt Lake City, UT. Eventually (1940's) the city office moved to the Civic Center. The Civic Center office closed July 1, 1964. The main forecast office was located at the Federal Building at Wilshire and I-405 around that time; it remained there until relocating to Oxnard in 1993. A separate office remained in place at LAX, until becoming an NWS Contract Meteorological Observatory in March 1997; this observatory was transferred to the FAA in late 2002.
<b>Montague</b>	WBO	1928-1948	This Weather Bureau office was transferred to the CAA on 4/15/1948.
<b>Monterey</b>	WFO	1994-present	The San Francisco Area forecast office moved from Redwood City to Monterey in August 1994.
<b>Mount Shasta</b>	WBO WSO	1948-1986	The Weather Bureau took over operations of the airway station in April 1948, from the CAA, and added fire weather functions later that year. It was relocated to the Forest Service building in town in 1954. An AMOS weather station was

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added in 1969. The station operated part-time, with one staff member, and was fully automated in 1986.

<b>Mount Tamalpais</b>	WBO	1898-1921	
<b>Oakland</b>	WBAS FAWS WBMO WSO WSCMO	1928- present	A Weather Bureau Airways Station was established in June 1928 at Oakland Municipal Airport, and began taking upper-air observations in 1938. A Flight Advisory Weather Service was added in 1944. Separate offices for surface and upper-air observations were established in the late 1960's. In 1980, the surface functions were transferred to the FAA, and the upper-air observations were taken under contract with the NWS.
<b>Oxnard</b>	WFO	1993- present	The Oxnard office was opened in 1993, after the forecast office was relocated from the Federal Building in West Los Angeles.
<b>Palmdale</b>	WBO WSO CWSU	1968 - present	The WB/NWS jointly operated a weather radar unit with the FAA at the Los Angeles ARTCC, beginning in 1968. A Center Weather Service Unit was established in the late 1970's, for aviation forecasting. The radar unit was completely turned over to the FAA in 1994, but the CWSU remains in place.
<b>Point Arguello</b>	WBO	1959-1964	A Weather Bureau office opened at the Naval Missile Facility near Lompoc in 1959, taking upper-air observations. The station was closed in 1964.
<b>Point Reyes</b>	WBO	1899-1926	
<b>Pomona</b>	WBO	1917- 1971?	This office was established at the Fruit Growers Exchange in October 1917, moving to the post office in 1931. The station operated through at least 1971.
<b>Redding</b>	WBAS WBO WSO	1928-1944, 1968-1996	The Weather Bureau opened an office at the Northern California National Bank building in July 1928, then moved to Benton Field the following April. The office was closed at the end of July 1944. A new office opened in October 1968 for fire weather purposes, operating daily from May-November and weekdays the remainder of the year. The office went to 24-hour operations in August 1986, after assuming responsibilities from the Red Bluff office. The office was closed as part of the NWS modernization in the mid 1990's.
<b>Red Bluff</b>	SigSvc WBO WBAS RDO WSO	1877-1986	The Signal Service opened an office in July 1877, relocating a few times before the Weather Bureau took over in 1891. The city office was closed in September 1934; an airport station was established at Bidwell Field in August 1944, taking over from the CAA. A River District Office was established 9/1/1965. By the mid 1960's, overnight observations were being taken by the FAA, with the Weather Bureau operating about 16 hours a day. The office was closed in August 1986, with its functions transferred to the Redding office.
<b>Redwood City</b>	WSFO HC	1968-1994	The San Francisco forecast office was moved to Redwood City in July 1968 from San Francisco International Airport. It remained here until being relocated to Monterey in August 1994. The Eastern Pacific Hurricane Center was also located here, established in 1970 after forecast responsibility had been transferred from the U.S. Navy. In 1988, its responsibilities were transferred to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, which had only been handling the Atlantic basin up until that time.

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<b>Riverside</b>	WBO AWSC	1968-1971, 1972- 1996?	A fire weather forecasting office was established in Riverside in 1968, then closed in 1971. A new office was opened at the University of California-Riverside campus in late 1972, covering agricultural and fire weather purposes; this closed in the mid 1990's.
<b>Sacramento</b>	SigSvc WBO WSO WFO RFC	1877- present	Signal Service operations began at the George Building in July 1877, and were located at the Lyon and Curtis Building when the Weather Bureau took over in July 1891. The office moved to the old Post Office building in 1894, remaining there until a new post office/Federal building was opened in 1933. An airport station was established in May 1950, and a third office opened at the State of California Building in 1963 for the new <a href="#">River Forecast Center</a> . A WSR-57 radar was placed in service 2/2/1960. The RFC and city office merged into a shared office in September 1964. The airport office closed in July 1974, with the FAA assuming full-time responsibility. The WSO and RFC were relocated to new facilities in March 1996, and the WSO was upgraded to a forecast office.
<b>San Francisco</b>	WBO DFO HQ WBAS WSFO WSO HC	1888-1998	The first official weather office in San Francisco, opening in 1888, was in the Merchants Exchange Building. The office, then located in the Mills Building, was destroyed in the fire following the great earthquake of 1906 (although it survived the quake itself), and was located at a private residence until a new exchange building was completed. In 1936, it moved to the Federal Building. A regional headquarters briefly operated here from 1942-43, before moving to Los Angeles. An Airport Station was opened up at the San Francisco airport east of San Bruno in late 1938. The district forecast center at the airport was moved to the city office in 1943, then back to the airport in the 1960's, and to Redwood City in July 1968; the city office was closed around 1973. The airport office was closed in 1998 and turned over to FAA contracting for monitoring the ASOS.
<b>San Diego</b>	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1871- present	The Signal Service began its operations in San Diego in October 1871 downtown, at the Dougherty Building. Several downtown sites had been employed by the time the Weather Bureau took over in 1891. The airport station was established at Lindbergh Field in August 1932, and operations of the city office were consolidated at the airport in February 1940. Around 1997, the NWS office was moved away from the airport, and operations were expanded, as part of the modernization effort.
<b>San Jose</b>	WBO WSMO	1905- 1933, 1971-1973	An office at City Hall in San Jose was established by the Weather Bureau in June 1905, but was closed in August 1933. A new Environmental Meteorological Support Unit (EMSU) was established in August 1971, and was closed 2 years later.
<b>San Luis Obispo</b>	SigSvc WBO	1869-1927	An early Signal Service office opened in July 1869; when the Weather Bureau took over in 1981, the office was at the Andrews Hotel. The office was closed in September 1927, with observations moved to California Polytech College.
<b>San Pedro</b>	WBO	1934-1953	This Weather Bureau office was established for marine purposes, first at Pier 88 and later at the Post Office building. The office was closed at the end of July 1953.
<b>Sandberg</b>	WBO WBMO WSMO	1932-1979	The Sandberg office opened in April 1932 atop Bald Mountain, after being relocated from Lebec. An automated weather station (AMOS) was installed in the 1950's. The Weather Bureau operated part-time with one employee, and was closed at the end of April 1979.
<b>Santa Catalina</b>	WBAS	1943-1953,	The Weather Bureau began observations on Catalina Island in November

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1962-1968 1943. The office closed in June 1953, then resumed operations at the end of 1962. It closed for good on 3/24/1968.

**Santa Maria** WBAS 1942-1998 The Weather Bureau established operations at the Santa Maria Army Air Field (later Santa Maria Public Airport) in November 1942. The office was closed in March 1998 as part of the NWS modernization.  
WSO

**Stockton** WBAS 1963-1997 Operations of the Stockton weather station transferred from the FAA to the Weather Bureau on 3/4/1963. The office was closed 3/25/1997 during the NWS modernization.  
WSO